

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 AID-05 IO-13  
/109 W

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R 050441Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL  
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INFP AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY DACCA  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
MJMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 5702  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 5414

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, IR, PK, AF  
SUBJECT: BBC REPORT THAT AFGHAN GOVERNMENT IS RECONSIDERING  
ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER PAST TREATIES

REF: TEHRAN 6313 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. BBC REPORT THAT AFGHANISTAN IS RECONSIDERING  
ITS TREATY OBLIGATIONS COULD FORESHADOW INCREASED TENSIONS  
WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, ESPECIALLY IRAN. END SUMMARY.
2. AS MONITORED AND TRANSLATED HERE, THE JULY 1 EVENING  
BBC FARSI BROADCAST REPORTED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER  
HAFIZUALLH AMIN TOLD CORRESPONDENT ANDREW WHITLEY THAT  
AFGHANISTAN DOES NOT CONSIDER ITSELF OBLIGATED BY  
AGREEMENTS AND TREATIES CONCLUDED BY THE DAOUD GOVERNMENT.  
SPECIFICALLY, AMIN REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE AFGHANS ARE  
AGAIN STUDYING THE ISSUE OF THE HELMAND WATERS TREATY WITH  
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IRAN. AS FOR PAKISTAN, AMIN, ACCORDING TO BBC, ASSERTED  
THAT THE PROCESS STARTED BY THE DAOUD REGIME WOULD NOT BE  
CONTINUED, ALTHOUGH HE REPEATED THE STANDARD FORMULATION  
THAT THE OUTSTANDING ISSUE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD  
BE RESOLVED THROUGH FRIENDLY TALKS. AMIN, ACCORDING TO WHITLEY,  
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HIS REMARKS WOULD NOT MAKE THE GOVERN-  
MENTS OF IRAN AND PAKISTAN VERY HAPPY, BUT THAT THE AFGHAN

GOVERNMENT DID NOT EXPECT ANY SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS AGAINST AFGHANISTAN ON THE PART OF THESE GOVERNMENTS.

3. COMMENT: OUR LOCAL EMPLOYEE'S TRANSLATION OF THE BROADCAST MAY BE FAULTY, SO WE WOULD PREFER TO SEE THE ACTUAL TEXTS FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS. NEVERTHELESS, THE TONE OF AMIN'S REPORTED REMARKS STRIKES US AS MORE BELLIGERENT AND PATRONIZING THAN HERETOFORE. IN ESSENCE, HIS POSITION ON THE BORDER ISSUE WITH PAKISTAN IS NOT NEW, ALTHOUGH HE APPEARS TO HAVE LAID TO REST THE "RAPPROCHEMENT" POLICY OF THE DAOUD REGIME. AMIN'S REPORTED REFERENCE TO THE HELMAND WATERS TREATY IS, OF COURSE, NEW AND COULD PRESSAGE FURTHER TENSIONS IN THE TWO COUNTRIES' RELATIONS. FOR THE AFGHANS TO DREDGE UP THIS DECADES-LONG DISPUTE AFTER IT WAS SUPPOSEDLY SETTLED IN 1973 AND AGAIN LAST YEAR, SEEMS TO US ONE SURE WAY TO MAKE THE SHAH GO THROUGH THE CEILING.

4. AMIN'S REMARKS WERE MOST PROBABLY MADE FOR FOREIGN CONSUMPTION, SINCE THE AFGHAN PRESS VERSIONS OF WHITLEY'S INTERVIEWS WITH AMIN AND PRIME MINISTER TARAKI WERE VERY BRIEF, AND CONTAINED NO REFERENCE TO THESE PARTICULAR ISSUES. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE NOTE THAT WHITLEY'S JULY 2 BROADCAST REPORTED THAT BOTH PRIME MINISTER TARAKI AND AMIN CRITICIZED IRAN FOR ITS TIGHT-FISTED APPROACH TO THE DAOUD GOVERNMENT, WHEREBY TEHRAN OFFERED MILLIONS BUT CAME THROUGH WITH VERY LITTLE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.  
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5. IRANIANS HERE ARE NONCOMMITTAL REGARDING WHAT THIS EPISODE MIGHT AUGUR FOR THE FUTURE, WHILE PAKISTANIS HAVE SHRUGGED OFF THE MATTER AS CONSISTENT WITH WHAT THEY HAVE HEARD SINCE THE ADVENT OF THE NEW AFGHAN REGIME. WHITLEY LEFT HERE CLAIMING THAT HIS INTERVIEWS HAD UNCOVERED "NOTHING VERY INTERESTING."  
AMSTUTZ

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, TREATY COMPLIANCE, FOREIGN RELATIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PEPR, IR, PK, AF, BBC  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014